

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets are cleaner copies of Figs. 1-9 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 1-9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3 and 11-13 are amended, claim 10 is canceled, claim 28 is added, the Abstract is amended, and the specification is amended. Reconsideration of the present application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 10-25 and 27 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter features of claim 10. Claims 2 and 13 have been amended to incorporate base claim 1. As such, claims 1-9 and 11-28 are in condition for allowance.

The specification has been amended to correct informalities. The Abstract has been amended to remove the reference numbers referring to the drawing elements illustrated in the figures. Moreover, attached are replacement sheets of Figs. 1-9. The replacement sheets are cleaner copies of Figs. 1-9 than the figures submitted with the application.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. US2002/0089612 to Okada in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,392,780 to Fujimori. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

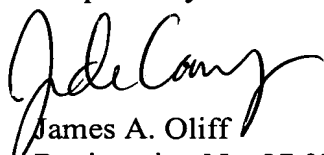
With respect to the §112 rejection, claim 3 has been amended to recite "wherein a dustproof glass that prevents adhesion of dust is closely attached to at least one of a light-incident side and the light-irradiation side of the optical modulator body." It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is clear. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 and claims 4-9, which depend from claim 3, under 35 U.S.C. §112, is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 26, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as discussed above, the allowable subject matter features of claim 10 have been incorporated into claim 1, and base claim 1 has been incorporated into claims 2 and 13. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2 and 13 are distinguishable over the applied art. Furthermore, those claims, which depend from claims 1 and 13, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:JLC/gew

Attachment:
Amended Abstract

Date: November 24, 2004

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